

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner to place it in condition for allowance.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 26.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 26. Accordingly, claim 26 is cancelled.

Claim 19, which recites a polyelectrolyte in a manner that is broader in scope than the polyelectrolyte of amended claim 1, is cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 15-18, and 29-32 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 15-18, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/36445 (English equivalent U.S. 6,197,287) in view of FR 97-04876 (English equivalent U.S. 6,353,034). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 now recites the features previously recited in claim 26, which the Official Action admits are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

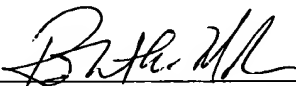
In view of the amendment to the claims and the foregoing remarks, the present application is in condition for

allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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